

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

***MAY 20, 2005***

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced that James Dean Wehrle, 41, of St. Charles, Missouri, pled guilty May 19, 2005, in federal district court, East St. Louis, Illinois, to one count of Possession of a Machinegun in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(o). The charge carries maximum penalties of ten years' imprisonment, or a \$250,000 maximum fine, or both, and three years' supervised release.

In a separate case, Mark Chappell, 23, of Alton, Illinois, pled guilty to one count of Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition by an Unlawful User of a Controlled Substance, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(3), for which the maximum penalties are ten years' imprisonment, or a \$250,000 maximum fine, or both, and three years' supervised release.

Prosecution of these cases resulted from an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

The cases were prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Stephen B. Clark and Andrew Simonson.